

Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1-157. (Cancelled)

158. (Currently Amended) A method of treating obesity in a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of angularly spaced plications about the gastro-esophageal junction of the patient's stomach by creating a plurality of tissue folds in a wall of stomach tissue thus drawing serosal layers of the stomach into contact with one another;

creating a perforation cutting through the tissue fold of each of the plications to form a hole in the plication; and

coupling an implant to the hole in each of the plurality of plications the tissue fold by passing a portion of the implant through the perforation, the implant causing restriction of food consumption by the patient.

159. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 158, wherein the tissue fold includes at least two layers of stomach wall tissue, and wherein the method further includes the step of securing the tissue layers to one another.

160. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, wherein the securing step includes securing the tissue layers using sutures.

161. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, wherein the securing step includes securing the tissue layers using staples.

162. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 159, wherein the ~~perforation~~ hole includes edges and wherein the securing step includes securing the tissue layers around the edges.

163. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 158, wherein the forming step includes the step of drawing a portion of the stomach wall inwardly to form the tissue fold, the tissue fold including layers of serosal tissue positioned in contact with one another.

164. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, further including the step of positioning a reinforcing material between the tissue layers.

165. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, wherein the forming step causes tissue adhesions to form between the tissue layers.

166. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 159, further including the step of promoting adhesion between the tissue layers.

167. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 164, wherein the promoting step includes positioning an in-growth promoting material between the tissue layers.

168. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 167, wherein the in-growth promoting material includes structural features for receiving tissue growth.

169. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 167, wherein the in-growth promoting material comprises an in-growth promoting substance.

170. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 165, wherein the ~~passing step is performed~~ implant is coupled to the holes in the plications after adhesions have formed between the tissue layers.

171. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 165, wherein the ~~passing step is performed~~ implant is coupled to the holes in the plications before adhesions have formed between the tissue layers.

172.-174. (Cancelled)

175. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 172~~158~~, wherein forming the plurality of plications comprises ~~method includes~~ forming ~~second and~~ ~~third~~ three tissue folds ~~and second and third perforations in the second and third tissue~~ folds respectively, and wherein the coupling step includes passing and coupling the ~~implant through~~ to the first, second, and third perforations ~~holes in each of the three~~ tissue folds.

176. (New) The method according to claim 158, wherein forming the plurality of plications comprises forming four tissue folds, and wherein the coupling step includes coupling the implant to the holes in each of the four tissue folds.

177. (New) The method according to claim 158, wherein the implant is coupled to the hole in each of the plications by a plurality of fasteners and said coupling comprises passing a first end of the fastener through the hole and a second end through the implant, where the first and second ends of the fastener are connected.